

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 OES-09 L-03 INT-05
TRSE-00 DOE-15 SOE-02 OIC-02 ACDA-12 AID-05
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DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 FMC-01 H-01 INR-10 JUSE-00
NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02
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C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 4452

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLOS, KU
SUBJ: LOS: KUWAITI ATTENDANCE AT RESUMED SEVENTH SESEUON AND ITS
VIEWS ON CONTINENTAL SHELF

REF: (A) STATE 188840, (B) STATE 134431

1. ON AUGUST 8 EMBASSY OFFICER CALLED ON ALI AL-SAMMAK, SECOND SECRETARY IN LEGAL DEPARTMENT OF KUWAIT FOREIGN MINISTRY, TO DISCUSS UPCOMING LOS CONFERENCE. AL-SAMMAK STATED HE WOULD BE DEPARTING KUWAIT AUGUST 15 VIA GENEVA AND WOULD ARRIVE IN NYC AUGUST 18 TO BE PART OF KUWAITI LOS DELEGATION. HE SAID DELEGATION WOULD BE HEADED BY UN PERM REP AMBASSADOR ABDULLAH YAQUB BISHARA. OTHER TWO MEMBERS WILL BE MR. SALIH ATTIA, AN EGYPTIAN LEGAL EXPERT EMPLOYED BY THE MFA, AND MR. ZA'IM IMAN, KUWAITI LEGAL EXPERT ATTACHED TO KUWAITI USUN MISSION.

2. EMBOFF LEFT WITH AL-SAMMAK PAPER BASED ON UNCLASSIFIED PORTIONS OF REFTEL, NOTING THAT IT INDICATED STRONG USG
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SUPPORT OF IRISH FORMULA. AL-SAMMAK NOTED THAT A SOVIET FIRST SECRETARY HAD BEEN TO SEE HIM LAST WEEK TO LOBBY FOR SOVIET PROPOSAL. AL-SAMMAK SAID HE WOULD STUDY OUR PAPER BUT SAID THAT GOK AND OTHER ARAB STATES WERE PLANNING TO PUSH AT UPCOMING LOS SESSION FOR THE ARAB PROPOSAL, FOR WHICH THEY HAD NOT LOBBIED STRONGLY IN GENEVA. HE SAID BASIS OF ARAB PROPOSAL IS THAT CONTINENTAL SHELF SHOULD NOT EXTEND MORE

THAN 200 NAUTICAL MILES WITH EVERYTHING BEYOND THAT DISTANCE BELONGING TO "THE COMMON HERITAGE OF MANKIND." HE BELIEVED THAT ARAB PROPOSAL SHOULD BE ABLE TO GAIN THE SUPPORT OF ALL LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND OF THE GEOGRAPHICALLY DIS-ADVANTAGED STATES. AL-SAMMAK SAID HE HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT THE ARAB STATES AND THE "GROUP OF 27" WERE PLANNING PRELIMINARY STRATEGY SESSIONS IN NEW YORK CITY A WEEK BEFORE THE AUGUST 21 OPENING DATE OF THE LOS CONFERENCE.

3. COMMENT: AL-SAMMAK IS A YOUNG, ARTICULATE KUWAITI, WHO WILL PROBABLY PLAY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THE WAY KUWAIT VOTES AT THE LOS CONFERENCE. HE SAID THAT HE KNEW MR. GEORGE TAFT FROM TAFT'S WORK IN GENEVA IN MAY AND ASKED IF TAFT WOULD BE ATTENDING THE AUGUST SESSIONS. WOULD SUGGEST IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL FOR TAFT OR OTHER MEMBER OF AMERICAN DELEGATION TO CONTACT AL-SAMMAK SHORTLY AFTER HIS ARRIVAL IN NEW YORK TO DISCUSS FURTHER AL-SAMMAK'S VIEWS ON THE LOS CONFERENCE. MAESTRONE

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